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12 February 1985

Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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12 February 1985

WORLDWIDE REPORT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

ARAB, AFRICAN SATELLITE PROGRAMS DESCRIBED

Paris AFRICA DEFENCE in English No 52, Dec 84 pp 37, 38

[Text]

The beginning of 1985 will see the first satellite designed to serve Africa fly above the continent. The satellite will provide telephone links, remote transmission and inter-country television broadcasts in Arab League nations. The satellite is of course Arabsat-1. This first launch by the European-made Ariane rocket marks the culmination of an adventure that began in 1977, when 22 countries grouped together to form the ASCO, or Arab Satellite Communications Organisation.

An offshoot of the Arab league, ASCO was founded by the assembly of Arab PTT and communications ministers. Its goal was the acquisition of satellites, their launch vehicles and the ground control stations required for their operation. Headquartered in Riyadh, ASCO is managed by Doctor Ali Al Mashat. Similar to Intelsat, there are three major levels in ASCO's organization chart: the general assembly of signatory ministers, a nine-member executive committee and an executive office comprising the general manager and his staff.

Built by Aerospatiale

Following an international call for bids for production of the satellites in 1978, which did not lead to an order being awarded, a second, more fruitful call for tenders ended with the selection of the French firm Aerospatiale as prime contractor, joined in the project by an American partner, Ford Aerospace. The \$134 million contract was signed in May 1981. It covers the supply of 3 satellites: two flight models and a spare unit. One year later ASCO began negotiations with both Arianespace and NASA for launching of the satellites by Ariane and the space shuttle. The probable launch dates are January and May 1985, respectively. A Japanese firm, NEC, won the contract for construction of the two satellite command and control stations. The main station has already been completed at Dhrab, near Riyadh, and the secondary station is under way near Tunis.

The transmission and reception stations, on the other hand, will belong to the PTT authorities in the different countries. Some 15 stations have already been completed or are nearly done. This means that towards mid-1985, North Africa will have some 8,000

simultaneous telephone circuits available. This will enable telephone, telegraph and telex links, along with television broadcasting. The satellite also has a community television channel that will transmit to small aerials about 3m in diameter. This will enable television programming to be brought to remote villages easily and at a low reception costs.

Much more than a symbol

Why did the Arab League decide to create a regional system? In addition to the purely symbolic aspects of the project, which are far from negligible, the satellites will provide immediate coverage of the entire zone, offering both high operational flexibility and services that far exceed those possible from simply leasing a channel from Intelsat. The system's penetration will be enhanced by a wide variety of reception possibilities and costs. These will cover a wide range, including S-band reception of community and education television programming (3m in diameter). Arabsat will thus play an important role in the socio-cultural development of Arab nations and their economic expansion.

Will Africa be next ?

Similar motivations have given rise to the notion of a pan-African telecommunications satellite, being studied at present by the UAPT, the African PTT Union. The AFSAT project continues to develop in a series of meetings held by the union's council of ministers from interested nations, both French and English speaking. The meeting held on November 18-19, 1983 in Bangui may have marked a turning point for the project. A draft agreement was prepared to enable feasibility studies to begin for AFSAT. It now seems possible that the AFSAT programme might "get off the ground", in 1987, with the first launches as of 1990.

Despite drops in their oil revenues, the Arab nations did not have any major problems in financing their system themselves. There would be a certain number of differences for Africa. Satellite telecommunications systems are, in the final analysis, less costly than ground stations. However, the initial expenses are considerable. There is the cost of the satellites, their launch vehicles and the ground stations, all adding up to a heavy investment. These costs are usually amortized within a dozen years, though. The system is also much easier to operate. However, the fact remains that the initial investment of several hundred million dollars must be found. This sum might be covered by such organisations as the CSDEAO, the CEAO, the DBEAC or the European Development Fund, which has already financed the pre-feasibility studies and which seems very interested in seeing the project through. Nor is economic cooperation with France to be ruled out, especially with the industrial benefits of building the satellite. It should be kept in mind that it was a French company, Aerospatiale, which built Arabsat.

The present configuration of AFSAT following the initial UAPT study, would provide

telephone, television and telex links, along with data transmission between data banks. It would cover the entire continent, including North Africa. A network of ground stations would enable coverage, from the savannah to the deepest forests. This would constitute a revolution in communications and the dissemination of information. Virtually every sector of the economy would benefit.

Technologies and training

The AFSAT programme would also give Africa a technological boost. Certain components for the system could be manufactured locally: antenna equipment, etc. It is also probable that, as with Arabsat, a far-reaching training programme would be undertaken to train engineers and technicians to operate the system and to familiarize themselves with the advanced technologies involved.

Organisation

When the programme is finally approved, it will be coordinated by an executive committee that will consider the objectives of the different countries and organisations involved. These will undoubtedly be numerous: the International Telecommunications Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the OAU, the African national radio and television broadcasting union, the UAPT and the UPAT.

AFSAT will be complementary to PANAF-TEL, the pan-African ground telecom network to be terminated in 1985. Together, the two networks will provide a complete infrastructure, which is today largely dependent upon Intelsat and the underwater cable linking Abidjan, Dakar and Casablanca to Europe. Today, calls between two African capitals often are routed via Europe. It is sometimes difficult, even impossible, to establish links from one region to another, even in the same country. With the arrival of these new means of communications, such problems would be quickly solved.

JAPAN

KDD, U.S. INITIAL TRANS-PACIFIC CABLE AGREEMENT

OW240215 Tokyo KYODO in English 0207 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Tokyo, 24 Jan (KYODO)--An international consortium Thursday signed an agreement to build a trans-Pacific optical fiber cable that would increase the telecommunications circuits seven times.

The agreement was initialed at an international telecommunications conference in Honolulu that includes participants from the U.S. American Telephone and Telegraph Co (AT&T) and KDD, Japan's international telephone service firm, KDD officials said.

A formal agreement is expected to be signed by the end of September this year pending approval from the governments of 10 nations taking part in the project, they said.

The cable, with a total length of 13,200 kilometers, is expected to be laid by the end of 1988, at a total cost of 593 million dollars (about 148 billion yen).

KDD will be responsible for 22 percent of the cost, the largest share after AT&T's 56 percent, according to the agreement worked out at the conference.

The trans-Pacific cable will be the first undersea fiber optic cable in the world.

The cable will consist of two sets of fiber optic cables, which have a capacity to transmit 280 megabits of data per second. It is equivalent to 7,560 telephone circuits.

Currently, there are two trans-Pacific telephone cables linking Japan and the United States, with a total capacity for about 1,000 circuits, KDD said the data-transmitting capacity of fiber optic cable could be increased another fivefold in the future by sending data through a multiplex device.

KDD said the new fiber optic cable will be able to fully accommodate telecommunications demands between Japan and the United States by the year 2000.

The Japan-U.S. fiber optic cable will be made of two segments, one linking Japan and Hawaii, and the other between Hawaii and Continental U.S.

The Japan-Hawaii segment is expected to be branched out to Guam, South Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region within the next five years, KDD officials said.

CSO: 5500/4509

JAPAN

JAPAN, U.S. START TELECOMMUNICATIONS TALKS

OW250359 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Tokyo, 25 Jan (KYODO)--Japan and the United States started two days of talks in Tokyo Friday to discuss the U.S. request for opening Japan's telecommunications market wider to foreign products to follow up on the recent meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

A focal issue at the meeting held at the Foreign Ministry is how to deal with a bilateral agreement concerning the Nippon Telephone and Telegraph Corp (NTT) procurement of communication equipment from American makers.

Japanese and U.S. officials, including U.S. Assistant Trade Representative Douglas Newkirk, are expected to explore for the possibility of continuing the present pact under which the NTT is procuring its equipment on a non-discriminatory and competitive basis even after Japan's telephone monopoly goes private on 1 April.

The telecommunication issue will also be taken up for discussion at a meeting of Japan-U.S. subcabinet talks in Tokyo later this month.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Megumi Sato told reporters after a cabinet meeting Friday morning that Japan wanted to listen to what the U.S. has to say about the issue and seek the U.S. understanding of the Japanese stand.

He said negotiations will continue with the aim of achieving a basic agreement by the end of March, thus indicating Japan will not submit a concrete plan for liberalizing its telecommunications market at the forthcoming talks.

CSO: 5500/4509

JAPAN

SUPPORT PLEDGED FOR WORLD TELECOM CENTER

OW241219 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Tokyo, 24 Jan (KYODO)--The Japanese Government Thursday pledged full support for an international program to set up a telecommunications center aimed at improving communications infrastructures in Third World countries.

The pledge came from Posts and Telecommunications Minister Megumu Sato when he met Koji Kobayashi, chairman of NEC Corp and a member on an advisory panel of the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The telecommunications center program, one of the main recommendations made in a report just finalized by the 17-nation panel, will be put before the leaders of the United States, Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan when they meet in Bonn in May for an annual economic summit, Kobayashi told a press conference.

He said that the center, which ITU wants to see inaugurated "at the earliest date this year," will supplement ITU's technical cooperation in developing countries.

It will collect data and information on telecommunications to make them available to developing countries; send experts to advise those countries on technical matters; and help them train telecommunications personnel.

Kobayashi said the cost of running the center is estimated at 10 million dollars, of which he said Japan will provide 1-2 million dollars.

He also said that Japan will set up a semi-governmental telecommunications center in Tokyo at an estimated cost of 12 billion yen (47 million dollars). This Tokyo center is designed to work hand in hand with the projected international center, Kobayashi explained.

CSO: 5500/4309

JAPAN

BRIEFS

KUWAIT TELEPHONE SYSTEM ORDER--Tokyo, 14 Jan (KYODO)--NEC Corp and Sumitomo Corp have jointly received an order for a mobile telephone- and paper-operating system worth 13 billion yen (51 million dollars) from Kuwait, an NEC spokesman said Monday. The system includes two switchboards, 42 base stations, 15,000 car phones and 10,000 pagers, he said. Kuwait has established Mobile Telephone Systems Corp to establish a nationwide telephone network in December 1986, he said. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT 14 Jan 84 OW]

NTT REJECTS FOREIGN COMMUNICATION SATELLITES--Tokyo, 23 Jan (KYODO)--The Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corp (NTT) Wednesday ruled out the possibility of buying foreign communications satellites urged by the U.S. Government, saying that it has been spending substantial money for development of satellites. NTT President Hisashi Shinto told newsmen that his corporation has already spent over 80 billion yen (314 million dollars) to develop the satellites codenamed CS2 and CS3. But he said that NTT would adhere to its basic policy of buying other telecommunications equipment from foreign makers even after going private in April. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 23 Jan 85 OW]

CSO: 5500/4509

CANADA

CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN TELEDETECTION PROGRAM

Quebec LE SOLEIL in French 11 Jan 85 p B 1

[Text] Minister of State for Mines, Robert E. J. Layton, announced yesterday that Canada will continue to participate in the ERS-1 Teledetection Satellite Program of the European Space Agency (ESA).

Mr Layton met on Tuesday in Ottawa with Mr Reimar Lust, general director of the agency. Canada has been a cooperating member of ESA since 1979 within the framework of activities related to the Canadian space program. These activities have been coordinated by the Minister of State for Science and Technology.

The Canadian Center for Teledetection--a directorate within the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources--coordinates the Canadian teledetection program. The term teledetection applied to acquisition of data on the surface of the earth by means of transmitters installed in aircraft or satellites.

Canada, which has been participating in the preliminary stage of the ERS-1 since March 1980, will take part in the manufacture, launch and use of the satellite, which should be placed in orbit in April 1989. Canada will invest about \$40 million in this program, which represents approximately 6.2 percent of the total cost reportedly set at \$700 million. The principal European members of the agency participating in the program are the FRG, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Holland.

Participating Canadian firms will include MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates of Vancouver, the main contractor for ground components; SPAR Aerospatiale of Montreal, which will contract for the auxiliary system for manipulation of data obtained from the satellite; and, finally, COMDEV Limited of Cambridge (Ontario), which will supply components for ultra high frequency equipment.

Data from the ERS-1 will be of particular benefit in off-shore oil exploration, marine navigation and monitoring sea and sea ice conditions.

CSO: 5500/2562

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

TV CHANNEL TO DISMANTLE--Bogota--The Valledupar regional television channel at Vallenato will dismantle its equipment and seek an agreement with INRAVISION [National Radio and Television Institute] to establish a joint venture that will allow it to begin broadcasting legally this year. Jose Jorge Dangond, pioneer of the Valledupar system, told Caracol that at no time was there an attempt to pirate the television signal, explaining that testing was being conducted to establish an authentically regional channel in the area in order to counter the cultural intrusion of Venezuelan stations that even make viewers forget the melody of Colombia's national anthem. Meanwhile, Colombian Communications Minister Noemi Sanin has reiterated that television is a monopoly of the Colombian state and that the law establishes that only regional enterprises are permitted, not private ones. She explained that the Vallenato television equipment will be confiscated because it was proven that the station was (?editing the signal). [Text] [Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 23 Jan 85 PA]

CSO: 5500/2034

INDIA

NEW ELECTRONIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, MORE PLANNED

Delhi THE STATESMAN in English 15 Dec 84 p 4

[Text] NEW DELHI, Friday--The existing electromechanical telephone exchange at Sirsa in Haryana is being replaced by a modern, fully electronic, containerized telephone exchange from today.

The exchange, with a capacity of 2,000 lines, has been imported from Holland and is the first of its kind to be installed in the country, as part of the plan to improve the efficiency of the telephone service.

The commissioning of the exchange marks the introduction of electronic switching technology in Haryana State, according to Mr J. P. Garg, General Manager, North Western Telecommunication Circle.

The exchange which is processor-controlled with stored programme control switching system, offers many new features such as fast switching and reliable operation with reduced maintenance. It is self-contained with its own air-conditioner--power plant and can be mounted on a trailer for installation at another location at short notice.

It offers a number of additional facilities such as abbreviated dialling, call transfer, absent subscriber service, priority calls, wake-up service, malicious call tracing, hot line service, subscriber metering data and subscriber line testing.

With the commissioning of this exchange, the waiting list under the Own Your Telephone and "special" categories will be fully cleared. New lines under the "general" category registered before May 3, 1983 will also be released gradually in the next few months. To meet future demands, this exchange will be expanded by an additional 1,000 lines.

Similar exchanges are under installation at Gurgaon and Khanna

CSO: 5550/0026

GUINEA-BISSAU

PORTUGAL TO AID DEVELOPMENT OF RADIO, PRESS COVERAGE

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 12 Dec 84 p 6

/Excerpts/ Comrade Agnelo Regalla, secretary of state for information returned to this country Monday after attending a colloquium on the literature of the African Portuguese-speaking countries. The conference was held in France from 28 November to 1 December.

Furthermore, according to Comrade Agnelo Regalla, Portugal and our country have defined priorities for the development of bilateral cooperation in the field of information, which will benefit the national radio, the news agency and the national press.

In cooperation with the Guinean radio broadcasting company, Portugal will help purchase and put into operation medium-wave transmitters to provide full radio coverage to the whole territory. Portugal will also finance the civil construction projects necessary to improve the Nhacra broadcasting center's building. Consultations will be held with all the national and Portuguese firms headquartered in our country in order to carry out this project.

The GUINEA-BISSAU NEWS AGENCY will receive 7,000 contos, granted through Portuguese cooperation, for the purchase of equipment and the technical training of personnel.

Portugal is also willing to cooperate with Guinea-Bissau in the field of television, which does not exist in our country because the Guinean Government is still giving full priority during this phase to reaching the whole country by radio.

These decisions were made on Saturday in a meeting in Lisbon between Gaspar da Silva and Anselmo Rodrigues, secretaries of state for cooperation and for the mass media, respectively, and Agnelo Regalla, the Guinean secretary of state for information.

8631
CSO: 5500/62

GUINEA-BISSAU

SWEDEN TO FUND TELEPHONE EXPANSION

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 19 Dec 84 p 6

/Excerpts/ The sum of 78.9 million Swedish kronor (1,115,803,800 PG /Guinean Pesos/) is being allocated for cooperation between Guinea-Bissau and Sweden for the year 1985, according to agreements signed Monday between the two governments.

The investments by sectors comprise, in telecommunications, among other items, the expansion of Cacheu-Ziguinchor international connections and the maintenance and redistribution of the electrical telephone exchanges.

In order for SIDA /Swedish International Development Authority/ to authorize the use of funds for expanding the Cacheu-Ziguinchor connections, Guinea-Bissau must submit documents signed by Guinean, Portuguese and Senegalese authorities.

These documents must contain the authorization for installation of equipment for a number of Ziguinchor-Dakar-Lisbon connections sufficient to allow for the desired expansion of contact between Cacheu and Ziguinchor. On the other hand, the agreement states that Guinea-Bissau should investigate the possibility of establishing connections with the Dakar International Traffic Exchange.

8631
CSO: 5500/62

GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

TELEPHONE NETWORK DEVELOPMENT--A study of the expansion of the national telephone network began on 28 November with the departure for sections of Cumere, Mores and Cuntima of a delegation from the General Administration of Mail and Telecommunications. The purpose of the present visit is to survey the situation, with the intention of proceeding to study the matter further later on. Designated as Project L-3, the work will be financed by Algeria, according to information reported to this newspaper by Aliu Quinhare, chief of the Departments of Operations and Telecommunications of the General Administration. The delegation was accompanied on this week's trip by Algerian engineer Arzani Mohamed, who is presently serving in our country. /Text/ /Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 4 Dec 84 p 2/ 8631

CSO: 5500/62

NIGERIA

VARIOUS BROADCASTING STATIONS CLOSE, RETRENCH

Gongola Retrenchment

AB021813 Lagos NAN in English 1621 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] Yola, 2 Jan (NAN)--Forty-eight workers including five editorial staff of the Gongola Broadcasting Corporation were yesterday in Yola served with letters of retrenchment.

The general manager, Alhaji Lawal Gabbo, said that the exercise was inevitable due to the financial constraints facing the corporation. Alhaji Lawal said that staff claims and leave grants will awaiting payment by the corporation amounted to 80,000 naira while the general liability of the corporation was 300,000 naira. He said that most of the retrenched staff were not justifying the salaries they were being paid, adding that the government was consulted before the action was taken.

The general manager said that between 1981 and 1983, the staff strength increased by about 120, saying that some people were employed without any formal interview. Alhaji Lawal said that in spite of the increase in staff strength, programmes and general productivity of the corporation deteriorated.

FRCN Stations Closure, Dismissals

AB091618 Lagos NAN in English 1555 GMT 9 Jan 85

[Text] Lagos, 9 Jan (NAN)--The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Jos, has been closed down and the appointments of 80 of its 89 members of staff terminated, a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports. Letters of termination, which take effect from tomorrow, have been given to the affected staff. One month salary and two weeks' salary will be paid to senior and junior members of staff respectively in lieu of notice. The letters explained that entitlements would only be given to workers who produced certificates indicating that they were not indebted to the corporation. The letter also directed workers to report with their termination letters on 31 January to collect their entitlements and to surrender the corporation's property in their possession.

In Bendel, the FRCN was yesterday closed down. A source close to the station said that 10 of its staff were deployed to Ibadan, the zonal headquarters, three were retired while the rest had their appointments terminated. It added that the station was on the air up to 11 a.m. yesterday before the news of formal closure got to the staff. The station had a total of 97 workers.

In Imo, the FRCN had been off the air since Monday night, as the first step toward the proposal to close down the station, the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports. When NAN visited the broadcasting house, workers were seen in groups discussing while mobile policemen were on duty at the gate. Sources close to the station told NAN that the general manager, Mr. Anyim Udeh, had earlier told the members of the staff to stay off-duty pending further instructions.

The FRCN station in Makurdi stopped transmission of programmes on 24 October last year following the announcement by the chief of staff Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, that some FRCN stations had been scrapped. It was not immediately known what would be the fate of the workers but the general manager of the station, Mr Linus Amtkaha, said today that some members of staff would be posted to other FRCN stations while others would be retired to have their appointments terminated. He declined to give details and would not say what would happen to the broadcasting equipment in the station.

In Calabar, the Cross River governor, Colonel Dan Archibong today appealed to the Federal Government to absorb some employees affected by the closure of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) in the state. Commenting on the closure of the station in his office, Col Archibong said that the Cross River state stood to lose the services of the station in the propagation of government objectives and programmes. He advised Cross River Radio officials to look into the possibility of taking over the facilities of the FRCN to improve their services. Meanwhile, the station has gone off the air and the NAN reporter could not get the general manager, Mr B. E. Bassey for comment, but was reliably informed that more than 100 officers were yesterday served with retrenchment or retirement notices.

The FRCN in Bauchi has been closed down with effect from 8 January. A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) who visited the premises yesterday reports that the general manager was not available for comment but a security man in the station's transmission hall said that he had been instructed not to allow any staff of the station to enter the premises.

And in Lagos, the FRCN yesterday sacked about 1,760 members of its staff from grade levels 1-12. Twenty-nine members of the editorial staff were affected in the mass purge, a source close to the corporation told a correspondent of NAN.

Kano Radio Station

AB101000 Lagos NAN in English 0935 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] Kano, 10 Jan (NAN)--The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Kano went off the air yesterday following the termination of the appointment of the over 60 members of the staff. A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) who visited the transmitting station was told by the (?security) guards at the gates that there was nobody on duty. Contacted, the general manager, Mr Haliru Gwarzo, who was the only one on duty at the station, declined to make any comment. One of the affected staff told NAN that the termination letters were sent from Kaduna under which Kano was zoned.

Journalists' Union Denouncement

AB101705 Lagos NAN in English 1600 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] Lagos, 10 Jan (NAN)--The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) said in Lagos yesterday that the retrenchment of more than 1,760 workers in the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) could not be defended. A statement by the union's secretary, Mr Jola Ogunlusi, said that the exercise was not only a negation of a recent pronouncement by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, that there would no longer be a mass retrenchment of workers, but also a violation of an agreement signed by the FRCN management that the union would be informed before letters of termination were served on affected workers.

The statement explained that the agreement was to allow for the examination of areas of "possible victimization and vendetta." It declared that the time was ripe for security of employment to be guaranteed all Nigerians, particularly when, according to it, the head of state had said in his budget speech that the economy was picking up. The union added that it had been disturbed by the FRCN retrenchment and was compiling a list of its members who were affected and would seek necessary redress.

Reabsorption of 'Retrenched' Staffers

AB131327 Lagos NAN in English 1208 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Minna, 13 Jan (NAN)--The Niger military governor, Lt Col David Mark, has said that the state government will reabsorb some of the retrenched staffers of Radio Nigeria, Minna, which was closed down.

Receiving the national secretary of the NUJ [Nigerian Union of Journalists], Mr Jola Ogunlusi, who visited him, the governor said that the reabsorption would be based purely on the personal merits of the affected workers. He said that the state government would not reabsorb all the displaced workers due to the lean financial resources of the state and the current campaign to trim the size of the civil service. The government said that the closing of

the federal radio stations in the states should not surprise any honest Nigerian, adding that the proliferation of radio stations was politically motivated

Mr Ogunlusi had appealed to the state governors in the affected states where Radio Nigeria stations were closed down to redeploy the retrenched workers. The national secretary was accompanied by the chairman and secretary of the Niger Council of the NUJ, Messrs Francis Bello and Cyril Stober.

PUNCH View of Retrenchment

AB141041 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The PUNCH examines the recent retrenchment exercise carried out by the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN. The paper explains that the establishment of most of the stations by the ousted civilian administration was dictated by political motives rather than national interests. The PUNCH, however, says that since the country's economy is gradually picking up, some of the displaced workers should be recalled.

CSO: 5500/72

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

NEW TRANSMITTERS FOR BENDEL--The Bendel State Government plans to construct an information delivery center in Benin City during this financial year at the cost of 2 million naira. In addition, the state's radio station will be equipped with powerful transmitters to widen its reception. This is envisaged to cost 500,000 naira while a permanent studio complex and an administrative block will be constructed for the state's television at a cost of 700,000 naira. This was announced by the commissioner for finance and economic planning, Shingle Oke, while briefing newsmen on the 1985 budget. He said the projects were being undertaken to ensure that information on government activities was disseminated to all parts of the state. Mr Oke also announced a development levy of 20 naira per taxable adult in the state during the year. [Text] [Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Jan 85 AB]

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE TO RESUME--The educational service of Radio Nigeria resumes transmission today. The station went off the air about 6 months ago as a result of a breakdown in its transmitter at Ijede in Lagos State. The education program can be received on medium wave bands in Lagos and a few neighboring states. [Text] [Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Jan 85 AB]

CSO: 3500/72

SIERRA LEONE

BRIEFS

TASS BEGINS DAILY NEWS SERVICE--Freetown, 18 Jan (AFP)--The Soviet news agency TASS is to begin transmitting a daily news service to Sierra Leone from Tuesday, Ministry of Information officials said here in the West African state today. [Words indistinct] though the radio antenna has not yet been installed, the officials said. The agreement with TASS was signed last July. TASS has also offered a (?two)-year scholarship to the Information Ministry to train Sierra Leoneans in operating the radio-receiving equipment and telex machines. Training begins next June at Soviet technical colleges. A Soviet engineer installing the radio-receiving equipment is also due to teach local specialists how to operate the machines, a Ministry of Information official said here. [Text] [Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 18 Jan 85 AB]

CS0: 5500/77

SOUTH AFRICA

NEW TELEVISION SERVICE TO BEGIN OPERATING 30 MARCH

MB181655 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] The South African Broadcasting Corporation [SABC] has announced that its new television service, known as TV 4, will start broadcasting on Saturday evening, 30 March, this year. The service will broadcast until about midnight and will present mainly entertainment and sports programs.

The new service will be presented in Afrikaans and English and will not follow a fixed language pattern. As with other SABC television programs, TV 4 will carry advertising. Negotiations are underway for the purchase of a variety of programs, among them popular serials, comedy, and light music programs.

The service will be presented on TV 2 and TV 3 transmitters and will start broadcasting at 2130 in the evening after TV 2 and TV 3 have closed down. The transmitter network of TV 2 and TV 3 is already being supplemented by transmitters which will make the new service available in areas served by the SABC transmitters in Sea Point and on Table Mountain.

The SABC will continue to supply additional transmitters for TV 1 in rural areas. The transmitter network of TV 2, TV 3, and TV 4 will be supplemented by sixteen gap-filler stations at various places in the country, as well as 13 additional main transmitters at Potgietersrus, Rustenrug, Grahamstown, Port Shepstone, Donnybrook, Christiana, Eshowe, Queenstown, Schweizer-Reneke, Zeerust, Bethlehem, Kuruman, and Nelspruit.

The first of these additional transmitters will come into operation in October this year and the last by September next year.

CSO: 3500/76

ZAIRE

AZAP TO BENEFIT FROM SATELLITE FACILITIES

AB231700 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1400 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 22 Jan (AZAP)--Citizen Sakombi Inongo, state commissioner for information, mobilization, propaganda and political action, announced on Tuesday his department's decision to provide AZAP with technical assistance by authorizing the agency to use satellite for its transmissions to the interior.

Receiving the new year wishes of AZAP staff, Citizen Sakombi pointed out that the staff of REZATELSAT [Zairian Satellite Telecommunications Network] has been instructed to receive punched tapes dropped off by AZAP's regional bureaus where the REZATELSAT has offices and transmit them to the headquarters of the agency. He said that already this system has provided for an interesting link between the agency's headquarters and Lubumbashi, Bukavu, Kisangani and Gbdolite. The second phase will consist of reserving one transmission line for AZAP which must acquire its own equipment to enable it to have direct access to the satellite line from its installations.

The state commissioner said that within the framework of the telecommunications development program contained in the address of the founding chairman of the MPR on 5 December, negotiations are under way to include the rehabilitation of AZAP's equipment in a 5-year development plan.

Citizen Ramazani Baya, AZAP's director general, who spoke on behalf of AZAP's board of governors and officials, reviewed the main achievements of the agency over the past year which he considered to be positive on the whole in spite of a few dark shadows.

He said, however, that AZAP is expected to plan for the future as well, in accordance with the objectives defined by the revolution and within the limits of the human and material resources of the agency which, he said, will play a more decisive role this year because the expected achievements will depend on the efforts that will be made.

In view of the realities and difficulties, the director general of AZAP envisaged as a major objective, self-financing in order to improve the future of the agency, adding that AZAP had thought that in 1983 it would be able to remove the hindrance caused by its traditional duty of providing press releases, by making up for the rareness of major news items, which used to be in abundance, and by increasing the agency's importance, just like other major press agencies which have organized themselves by diversifying their resources and revenues.

ZAIRE

BRIEFS

LINGALA BROADCASTS STOPPED--Matadi, 31 Dec (AZAP)--As of 1 January 1985, the Matadi Radio and Television Service regional station will stop its transmissions in Lingala. This decision, for which no reason was given, was made at the meeting of officials of the Zaire Radio and Television Service regional station in Matadi presided over last Saturday by Citizen Kabela Musosa, the regional director of the service. [Excerpt] [Kinshasa AZAP in French 1502 GMT 31 Dec 84 AB]

CSO: 5500/71

AUSTRIA

DELAYS, FUTURE PLANS FOR VIDEOTEX EXAMINED

Vienna INDUSTRIE in German 14 Nov 84 pp 8-14

[Article by Christian Lenhardt: "Btx [videotex]--Please Wait"]

[Text] Just about 1 year ago it could be proudly announced in this journal that the postal service's videotex service would begin regular operation in a few weeks--moreover, a premier in Europe. Now, of course, things are still in the "test phase" state which is characterized as an "expanded pilot trial." Because the ambitious plans of the post office boys were overtaken by domestic reality.

In spite of large investments by the postal system, a very promising technical innovation and a number of ambitious suppliers Austria, after all, was not the first country in Europe to introduce an official videotex service. Although enormous technical problems had to be coped with, the FRG took the lead on 27 June 1984, the day on which operation of unlimited service began.

All Precautions Taken

The start of the domestic system was, to be sure, announced at the first congress of the Association of Videotex Suppliers [(bav) Bildschirmtext-Anbieter-Vereinigung] for 1 March 1984 by the general director of the postal system, and all precautions had been taken for this deadline, yet that was not how things were to turn out. A few days earlier the Chamber of Workers and the Private Employees Union set this "healthy" world into turmoil. They managed to get into the business regulations of the postal system a prohibition on buying via screen and on home banking and thus removed "the commercially interesting pillars" from the system as the bav quickly countered. Beautiful graphics, computer games, management and educational information are, of course, not enough to keep videotex alive. The powerful suppliers, such as banks or business, would withdraw because of the absence of economic usability and thus all opportunities, say for the educational sector, were also lost.

Only one show of strength helped: The start of official operation was postponed to that point in time at which the social partners, to whose level these disputes were raised, would have agreed on a Btx law. The service is being continued as an expanded pilot trial. Since then the maxim for the Btx community which has been growing month after month is: Btx--please wait...

The System Is Alive

In spite of all these discussions the domestic Btx system is alive and continues to develop in many areas--even if only partially "in tests" as, for example, in the case of home banking. Since November 1983 the number of suppliers has grown from 308 to 408, the number of subscribers without supplier status has reached 1,490; 1 year ago they numbered only 177. The user must no longer feel angry about the fact that the computing center in Vienna's arsenal is inaccessible--to say nothing of service times. For precisely according to the postal system's plan not only was the dual central computer at Vienna's arsenal put into operation on 1 March, but also in the middle of the year two additional computer centers were installed in Salzburg and Klagenfurt. Even the much-discussed external computers, which will make possible proper use of Btx with home banking and comprehensive teleshopping, have already been hooked up to the postal service's computer via a Datex P line. At present 15 units--even if only for test purposes--are connected and 43 additional computers are waiting to be linked up.

According to the statistics the system suppliers have rented 73,282 pages, of which 56,000 are being offered to the public. These two numbers increase by about 2,000 each month.

Anonymity

The domestic videotex service is full of innovations. One of them was primarily the development of the intelligent MUPID call and edit terminal, the importance of which will be reported on below, another one was implemented in the system just a few weeks ago: anonymity. Precisely in the year of Orwell, which is repeatedly conjured up from a certain side because of the increasing computerization of our lives, it became possible for the first time to move anonymously in a computer system without leaving any betraying "data tracks" which in the case of an emergency reveal the personal preferences and interests of the caller. If, however, the user encounters a page which is subject to cost or an order or information page, he is referred to the fact that he must now identify himself with his subscriber number and his personal code word.

Home Banking Being Tested

As mentioned above, external computers have already been connected to the Btx system with which, among other things, home banking is possible on a test basis within a closed group of users.

For this purpose the GABE, together with the credit business, prepared account models via which currently, according to the terms of an agreement by the institutes which will run until the end of 1985, inquiries about account status and remittances are possible. Security against misuse is provided by teleprograms, which MUPID provides, or is guaranteed by a series of access codes and transaction numbers--these are valid for only single remittances. In the savings bank sector there is the belief that these precautions will also be sufficient to meet the high security requirements in this country. In contrast little can be gained from the German suggestion of a special home-banking chip card

since that not only raises the question of who pays for the card and card reader, but also the problem of the complete absence of all safeguards if the chip card is lost.

And, moreover, reference is made to one fact: even if a criminal or a "freak" should succeed in cracking all access codes and even discover the account number and the transaction number, remittances via Btx take place from one legitimate account to another and are thus retrievable in the case of an emergency.

Limited Btx-ing

Even if the domestic system continues to develop, thus technically and in terms of software not least because of ambitious suppliers and the constant negotiations and acts of intervention by the Bav in the case of the postal service, several possibilities from the FRG will remain unavailable to the user because of the "expanded pilot trial." This is especially true of shopping from the comfort of the television chair. For the present in Austria people are limited--just as in the case of a post card--to filling out a prepared information page and then sending it off to the mail-order house. To do this in the FRG the central computer is abandoned, the supplier's electronic data processing is accessed and one's orders are activated there. This has the advantage of not only providing information about whether the desired article is in stock, but also an alternate selection is immediately offered and upon request a payment recommendation is also proposed. In this, too, the situation with us is still: Btx-ing? Please wait!...

MUPID Makes It Possible

In spite of this the domestic system enjoys increasing demand which undoubtedly is due to the Austrian development of MUPID. This equipment, which was developed at the Institute for Information Processing at the Technical University of Graz, eliminates a large threshold obstacle to videotex by making every modern color TV set Btx-usable by means of a Scart- or Euro-AV plug and moreover is rented from the postal service at a cost of 320 Austrian schillings per month. The threshold with the Btx, which is thus eliminated, are high decoder costs which in the FRG currently run about DM1,200 to 1,600.

But MUPID makes even more possible: In addition to its function as an intelligent call terminal it is also a fully programmable small personal computer on which MUPID-BASIC programs can be put together or on which one can access a comprehensive program library in the postal service computer. These can then be processed by the "local" intelligence with or without a telephone connection. One of these teleprograms in particular should be mentioned here: the search program. It avoids one problem of all other Btx systems: nonretrieval of desired information, or even getting lost in the system, accompanied by high telephone costs.

The Future

What's the future of Btx in Austria? Seen from a purely technical point of view the expanded pilot trial will be increased by the end of this year to

3,000 subscribers, by the end of 1985 to 12,500 and in the 2 subsequent years to 27,500 and 50,000 Btx users. The postal service wants to take precautions to see to it that in the next 2 years computer centers will start operating in Graz, Innsbruck and Linz.

The number of external computers which are connected in will also grow, in this connection it is anticipated that the circle of interested people will range far beyond software stores, banks and business.

This then means not only publicly accessible information, but increases the implementation of internal communication applications via videotex. Because of its low transmission speeds the system is, of course, substantially slower than that higher quality data line, but much cheaper. Thus, the connection from each town in Austria to the postal service computer costs only the current local charge of 35 Austrian schillings per hour.

The amounts of data to be transported as well as the required transmission security will surely call for a decisive judgment...

Conversion of the domestic system to the Cept norm which has been adopted by European postal authorities as the unit standard is planned for 1985; in this connection in Austria, probably because of the capabilities of MUPID, the second Cept stage, C2, will be reached. A project which is not without disagreement among suppliers because of a fear of becoming separated from international development; especially by the FRG where the question of when the C2 norm will be introduced in addition to the CO-norm is completely open. In any case Austrian industry desires that the postal service's network should be C2-usable, that the demand on the end devices should correspond to the type CO and finally that type C2 should be equipped for Btx and devices as a reliable option as the Chamber of Industry recently established in a letter to the postal service.

On the FRG side there would also be little joy about the C2 norm because the Austrian system would develop too far away from the German system, and the result would be unbridgeable compatibility problems in the opinion of the German suppliers association.

Btx Law

The future of the domestic Btx system, however, will depend in large measure on the legal regulation which is currently being negotiated. Of course, there is agreement that it should make possible a system which is spoon-fed to the smallest possible degree, thus a system capable of development--the "devil" rests, however, in the detail, for example in consumer protection surrounding ordering, or the consequences of home banking. Ambros, director of the Association for Savings Bank Automation, for example, appears less happy with the current course of discussions about the law. He thinks that ultimately on the part of the critics the view would have to gain acceptance that the two pillars of the system, teleshopping and the Btx account, will not serve to overcharge the customers, but rather to offer them expanded service. Thus, the banks would have closed if a businessman were able to manage his account, for that reason banks would have to use all technical possibilities to expand service.

The question of the often-quoted "rationalizing away" of jobs, which is likewise disputed, is also viewed by Ambros differently from the competent critics since every new service means new jobs. Savings for the banks will result from Btx at the earliest in the next decade, then certainly "not on the personal side"...

Btx Neighbors

A glance across our borders explains why we must use the phrase "specifically Austrian." For in Switzerland, where with videotex--which is the name of the system there--they are currently involved in a pilot phase which will last until the end of 1985, and in the FRG, where on 27 June unlimited service began, such regulations are not being discussed, rather there is the attitude that practice should show where there is a lack of legal regulations.

In the FRG, where, as is generally known, laws relating to the media are the business of the laender, a national agreement on Btx was first concluded which contains detailed regulations about publicity, data protection and legal press-related controls, such as the right to respond. In the other sectors, thus contractual right, copyright or competition right, this agreement refers to the applicable laws. Following discussion about what the national agreement now legally entails there was agreement to wait for practical experience in respect to additional controls. According to Rohloff, president of the German Btx suppliers, not until then will there be a desire to create additional controls or a suppliers' code of honor.

The question of possible losses of jobs through rationalization in the wake of Btx was and is being discussed in our neighboring countries. While in Switzerland there are discussions between advocates and critics of the system, in which primarily, according to information from suppliers' president Dangel, the critical side should be separated from false judgments and views about the new media, in the FRG there are hard figures at hand because of companion studies in field trials: Here, in Berlin and in Duesseldorf, it had been clearly shown that such losses of jobs do not occur as a result of rationalization and on the contrary additional jobs have developed. As Rohloff concedes in the discussion, Btx will surely contribute to rationalization in the long run and register losses, but the balance will be positive.

Expansion of the network also continues to proceed smoothly in our neighboring countries, but especially in the FRG. By the end of 1985 there will be 55 so-called telephone exchanges which can simultaneously produce about 15,000 connections to the systems, one-third of them to external computers which are favored in the FRG because of the absence of any local intelligence with the user. The system would thus handle about one-half million subscribers.

Although at present the high decoder costs for the Cept standard (DM1,300 to 1,600) still represent a threshold obstacle for private use, rapid development is anticipated in the 1990's even among these users.

The Swiss operational test is to involve a total of 3,000 subscribers--one-third each in the Zurich and Lausanne areas and distributed throughout Switzerland. There, too, conditions are being created now for comprehensive operation after 1985.

Good Things

Thus, videotex should not be delayed; as was shown, technically the problem has been controlled, in terms of legal matters several things might still possibly happen to all participants. But perhaps in the case of Btx it will also be true that good things take time. Hopefully the time will not last so long that boredom surfaces in the system because of blocked opportunities.

12124

CSO: 5500/2542

DENMARK

GOVERNMENT, SDP AGREE ON 'HYBRID' NET FOR SATELLITE TV

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 19 Dec 84 p 9

[Article by Dan Axel]

[Text] The Postal and Telegraph services are getting exclusive rights on the reception of TV programs from the weak communications satellites, while programs from the powerful broad-beamed satellites can be received privately via parabolic antennae.

Yesterday the government and the Social Democrats came to an agreement that ensures the establishment of a country-wide 'hybrid' net--an advanced radio-TV data net--during the next 6 years. The cost will be a good 5 billion kroner, to be provided through user fees collected through the telephone companies.

The telephone companies will see to it that the net will reach to at least one point in each of the country's 275 municipalities, where a common antenna installation can be hooked into upon payment.

"No limits have been set to the rates, but we expect that market pressures will set natural boundaries for how much the telephone companies can demand," says Ritt Bjerregaard, who has been the Social Democrats' head negotiator in the two months that negotiations with the government have lasted.

Minister of Transport Arne Melchior (Christian Democrat) is very satisfied that an agreement has been reached on the 'hybrid' net's future. "In a matter of years and in step with technology's rapid development, the net will result in great new possibilities for the individual, for the family, for businesses and for organizations," he says.

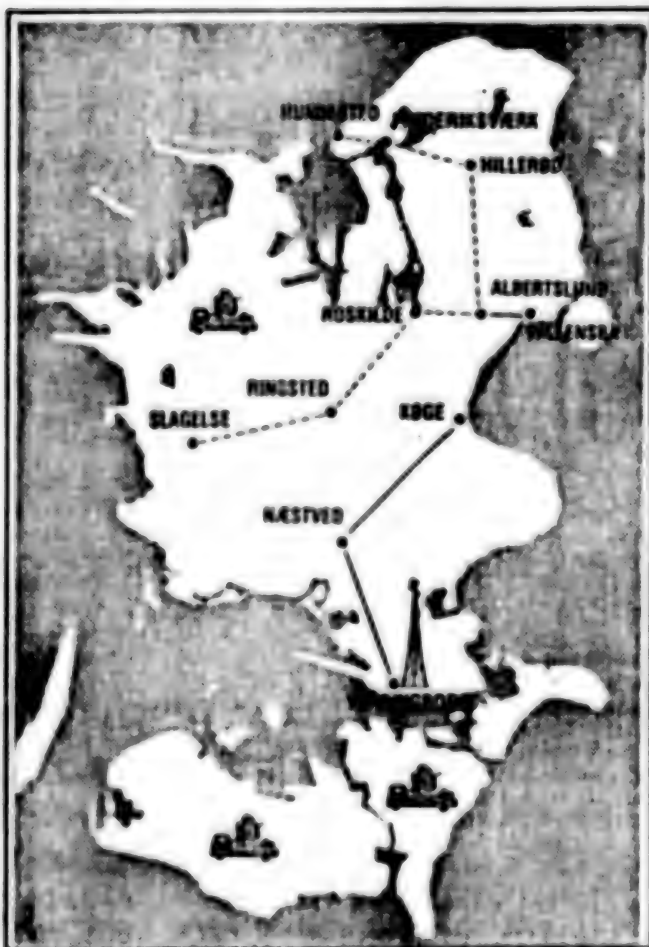
The agreement between the government and the Social Democrats is an obvious compromise, in which the Social Democrats won over with their reasonably unified rate policy, and in which the government got eliminated from the financing of the project all talk of forced hookups and large state expenditures.

The point of departure for the agreement between the parties is the Social Democrats' resolution put forward 3 October 1984 to propose a hybrid net. Now the parties will immediately in the new year "expedite the submission of a report" about the proposal so that Parliament, too, will get a chance to debate the content of the agreement.

At the same time Minister of Culture Mimi Jakobsen (Christian Democrat) will put forward bills to change the law concerning radio and television so that there will be created a foundation in law for transmission of data, radio and television signals across municipality boundaries.

The hybrid net is a compound net that consists of the very advanced fiber optic cables in the central part of the phone network and of coaxial cables, i.e., ordinary antenna lines in the outermost connections to the common antenna installations.

The main sections--the fiber optic cables--will be laid out and operated by the telecommunications companies, while on the local level--in the outermost end of the net--there will be open competition between the telephone company and private antenna firms.



CAPTION: Optical fiber cables already have been laid along the solid lines, and here hooking up to the hybrid net can be done quickly, and along the dotted lines cables will be laid in the future. KTAS [The Copenhagen Telephone Company] will during a transition period supply areas lying distant from the optical fiber cables with mobile radio link trucks.

12819
CSO: 5500/2549

DENMARK

BRIEFS

SECOND TV CHANNEL AGAIN POSTPONED--Negotiations on a country-wide second TV channel have again been postponed indefinitely without there being prospects for an agreement between the government and the social Democrats on the financing of the break up of the monopoly desired by both parties. "But I certainly will not rule out that we can reach an agreement relatively quickly. In any case, we will meet again for a new discussion in January," says Minister of Culture Mimi Stilling Jakobsen. She points out that in the course of next fall there will be five to six satellite TV programs with commercials on the Danish airwaves. "And that must get a majority in Parliament to think twice. Why expose Danish business to that kind of competition," says the Minister of Culture. After the negotiations yesterday the Social Democrats' party chief, Anker Jorgensen, said that a decision on a second channel "can and must be made quickly. There is no reason to put off the decision on the technical implementation of a second channel, for the problem with the financing can be solved later." [By Dan Axel] [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE 19 Dec 84 p 9] 12819

CSO: 5500/2549

FINLAND

EXPERIMENTAL LOCAL RADIO LICENSED IN COUNTRY

LD241657 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1300 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Local radio activity can begin on an experimental basis in Finland at the beginning of next month. The government today granted experimental operating licences to 33 applicants. The experiment is to start in 21 localities; in 15 of them one licence owner will operate. These localities are: Karkkila, Nurmijarvi, Ikallinen, Inio, Pori, Tampere, Toijala, Pieksamaki, Kuopio, Kurikka, Lapua, Uusikaarlepyy, Jyvaskyla, Kuusamo and Nivala. In five localities--Turku, Kouvola, Lappeenranta, Eno and Vaasa--two radio operators will share a radio frequency and generally use the same transmitter. In Helsinki one community received a separate operating licence, and on another frequency a group of seven applicants will operate under a common licence. There were altogether almost 250 applicants for operating licences; of these the government rejected over 200. Among the approved applicants are newspaper companies, trade unions and municipally-owned companies.

It is a condition of the local radio licence that the share of advertising does not exceed a maximum of 11 percent. The licence owners must also, as far as possible, give transmission time to other communities in the area, such as the municipality, the congregations and ideological communities. The experimental licences will be in effect until the end of June 1987. During the experimental period the Ministry of Communications will study to what extent the special local features are reflected in the programs and the reception of the programs. The study and follow-up operations will cost an estimated 900,000 markka, of which this year's share is 400,000 markka.

CSO: 5500/2563

FRANCE

PRIME MINISTER CONFIRMS LAUNCH OF TDF1, TDF2

Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Dec 84 p 13

[Article by Jean-Francois Lacan: "Mr Fabius Confirms the Launching of the TDF1 and TDF2 Satellites"]

[Text] On Thursday 27 December, the prime minister, Mr Laurent Fabius, confirmed that the launching of the direct broadcast satellite TDF1 had been scheduled for 7 July 1986. A few weeks after its launching, the satellite will be able to broadcast four television programs covering most of Western Europe. To ensure service continuity, the government decided to launch a second satellite in 1988. TDF2 will be designed using the same technology as its predecessor, and users will therefore be able to receive the programs it will broadcast with the equipment used for TDF1.

To ensure that TDF2 is completed as soon as possible, the state has already placed the first supply orders amounting to F7 110 million. Mr Fabius asked Mr Jacques Pomonti, who remains president of the National Audiovisual Communication Institute (INA) to create the company that will market the direct broadcast satellite services* and to set up a financial package for the project. As a result, Mr Pomonti will continue his negotiations with the Luxembourg Telebroadcasting Company (CLT) which wishes to operate two TDF1 channels. Mr Pomonti will also negotiate with Mr Pierre Desgraupes who, at the request of the government, is considering having his public service program one channel.

The government decision puts an end to one year of polemics between proponents of the direct broadcast satellites and supporters of low-power and less costly devices that, however, would require more sophisticated receiving equipment. Mr Jacques Dondoux, general director of telecommunications, had thus stated that the TDF1 technology was completely "obsolete" (LE MONDE date 8 March). The report prepared by Mr Gerard Thery at the request of the minister of post and telecommunications offered similar conclusions (LE MONDE dated 14 March). The technical problems encountered in developing TDF1 and the Coronet European light-satellite project had recently revived the polemic.

* Mr Fabius indicated that the authorities would retain control over the technical infrastructures and a blocking minority interest in the marketing company.

Mr Fabius's letter to Mr Pomonti makes the government arbitration very clear. The choice of a technology combining a high-power satellite and low-cost individual antennas is confirmed for TDF1 and TDF2. The prime minister adds: "Simultaneously, studies will be started soon to design a new generation of direct broadcast satellites to follow the TDF1/TDF2 system. Their objective will be to develop lighter devices that would still be compatible with the use of individual equipment." Changes will therefore have to be made on the basis of high-power technological options without any excessive additional cost to the user.

European manufacturers (Thomson, Philips, Siemens) can therefore start without delay the production of receiving equipment, so as to be ready to deliver some tens of thousands of antennas and decoders by the end of 1986, and a few hundreds of thousands the year after. However, one last problem remains to be solved: that of the color-TV standard to be used. Some manufacturers intend to retain SECAM and PAL for the first equipment generation. Other want to wait until "D2 Mac" becomes the new European standard, but that might delay the sale of equipment.

The success of the TDF1 operation will depend to a large extent on the programs broadcast by the TV satellite. In this respect, the situation is not yet quite clear, and Mr Pomonti's mission will not be an easy one. The CLT has made a commitment for two channels, but its officials are following with some anxiety the debate on private TV broadcasting in France through radio-relay systems. In case of a sudden deregulation, RTL [Radio-Tele-Luxembourg] might well decide that local frequencies accessible to all would be more attractive than a satellite whose reception will require a minimum investment of FF 4,000 per user. At any rate, financing and partners for the remaining two channels will still have to be found. Indeed, under the French-Luxembourg agreement, advertising will be reserved to the RTL channels.

9294

CSO: 5500/2554

FRANCE

COMMENTARY ON FRENCH DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE PROGRAM

Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Dec 84 p 13

[Article by Maurice Arvonny: "This Device For Which We Have No Use..."]

[Text] Why TDF1? If we recall the many debates that took place in the past few years concerning the French direct broadcast satellite, if we read the report prepared by Mr Gerard Thery at the request of Mr Louis Mexandeau, minister of post and telecommunications, if we observe that the decision to manufacture TDF2, which had been implicit for several months, has only just become official, we cannot dodge the question. To answer it, we must go back to the origin. Liberal as he may be, Mr Valery Giscard d'Estaing did not make any great effort during his seven-year mandate to alleviate the state's heavy control over radio and television. We may then wonder that he agreed to the development of a satellite that was obviously going to break the monopoly sooner or later. His decision was based on international and industrial considerations.

TDF1 is the twin brother of the German satellite TV-Sat, but the latter was the first born. Indeed, it was those in charge of space development in the FRG who decided around 1976 that direct broadcasting would be a good subsector for the German industry. At the time, the FRG had been concentrating its efforts on Spacelab, which appeared to have been the wrong decision: the industrial and commercial prospects offered by Spacelab were minimal, and they were long-term prospects. They had to find something else. France had the leadership of Ariane. Observation satellites, a field where the border between civil and military applications is not well defined, would have resulted in political problems. Direct broadcasting looked like a good choice, all the more so as, for reasons of internal regulations, the United States had not acquired any lead in the field. And Scandinavian countries were then debating the creation of a joint satellite broadcasting system, Norsat, which did not come off.*

The choice made by German officials first led them, in 1977, to scuttle the H-Sat project of the European Space Agency, although it was predominantly French-German--they also had some other very good reasons--and then to attempt

* The French-West German group Eurosatellite, which is manufacturing TDF1 and TV-Sat, has received an order for a satellite for the Swedish Tele-X project, which succeeded Norsat.

to develop direct broadcast satellites on their own. The West German space industry probably could have done it, but it was easier to take the French as partners. Since Paris informed Bonn that it had no intention to abandon the direct broadcasting market to West Germany, and that the two countries would either cooperate or compete, the two parties agreed to develop the French and West German satellites jointly. The negotiations were laborious, as France wanted full equality while the FRG wished to retain a preponderance that now no longer appears except in launching dates: TV-Sat will be placed on orbit before TDF1.

Market surveys showed that there were nice prospects for direct broadcast satellites in developing countries. In large countries with difficult geographic conditions (mountains, deserts, equatorial forests) and scattered populations, the installation of a land-based TV network is always costly, sometimes impossible because the required technical personnel is not available on location. On the other hand, television is too valuable a tool for education or even for the development of national consciousness for governments not to wish for its extension. Satellite broadcasting is then the best solution.

However, if you are to sell satellites and the associated emitting and receiving equipment, the best is to be able to show some that are operational.* This is why France is equipping itself with a satellite which it does not really need and whose high power, which may be excessive if we consider the size of the French territory, is justified for larger countries. At first, some consideration was given to rebroadcasting through the TF-1 satellite and the Antenne-2 channel, to provide coverage for poorly served dark areas. When the government changed in 1981, and when it was found that the inhabitants of the few hamlets or shepherd huts located in these dark areas did not provide an adequate clientele warranting the development of a receiving-equipment industry, a frantic search for other programs started. The result was the agreement laboriously negotiated with the Luxembourg Telebroadcasting Company. As far as the use of its own satellite is concerned, the FRG is also no better off than France.

9294

CSO: 5500/2554

* In practice, this means that a second satellite must be launched to ensure service continuity in case of a failure.

GREECE

BRIEFS

NEW PATRAI TV STATION--Equipment will soon be sent to Patrai for a new television station, which plans to begin broadcasting a local newscast for southwest Greece as soon as it is installed. Vasos Mathiopoulos, director general of the Hellenic Radio-Television One, said this in Patrai today. He added that the local radio station will acquire transmitters of higher power. [Text] [Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1930 GMT 25 Jan 85 NC]

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